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IPEJ: A journey of one and half decades



It was along the sidelines of the National Interventional Council meeting at Kochi in May 2001 that a group of EP enthusiasts discussed about forming an active EP group at the national level. This was soon followed by the launching of a website for the *Indian Pacing and Electrophysiology Group* in line with the then popular British Pacing and Electrophysiology Group. The website had educational content in the form of interesting ECGs and EP tracings. This was soon followed by the launching of the online open access journal *Indian Pacing and Electrophysiology Journal (IPEJ)* in October 2001. IPEJ was unique among open access journals in that it gave open access to the content without adding any burden of author charges on the authors. The journal was maintained by the voluntary effort of medical professionals interested in maintaining free access to academic publications. The whole work of the journal including editorial processing, creation of website content and communications were done without any financial support.

In 2001, the journal had Dr. Balbir Singh and Dr. Yash Lokhandwala as the editors-in-chief and myself as the founder and executive editor. Dr. Calambur Narasimhan took over as the editor-in-chief later, by which time the journal had become the official journal of the newly formed *Indian Heart Rhythm Society*. The journal was initially included in the Directory of Open Access Journals and later in EMBASE and

SCOPUS, the Elsevier bibliographic databases. Next target was Pubmed which seemed a far fetched dream for an online only journal. For submission to Pubmed Central, the free full text permanent archive of the US National Library of Medicine, the entire journal content from the beginning had to be submitted in xml format. Learning xml was a real saga for us, with very little training in computer languages. Getting professional help at that time was very expensive and beyond our reach. By 2006, the saga was successful and Pubmed Central accepted the full text of IPEJ into their online permanent archive. This was acknowledged as an Indian record by Limca Book of Records in 2007 as the first online only medical journal to be indexed by Pubmed from India.

Now we are moving on to the state-of-the-art publishing platform with Elsevier. The tireless effort of the present editor-in-chief, Dr. Narayanan Namboodiri in reaching this milestone needs special mention. Of course, throughout this odyssey at every stage, the section editors and the reviewers had been the pillars of strength for the journal. As of date a search on Google Scholar for “Indian Pacing Electrophysiol J” returns about 2600 results, with several IPEJ articles having over 80 citations and highest cited article having over 120 citations. We hope to see a rapid increase in this important and easily accessible metric in the coming years with the new publishing platform.

Johnson Francis,
Founder and Executive Editor

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